

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE PROJECT – VIEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE ACTION GROUP

KEY FORWARD ACTIONS

1. Council to produce full written and statistical report of November 2016 consultation;
2. Council to work up clear statement of purpose and core objectives of the design in a formal brief and masterplan. Transparency and proper process are important here (based upon the Nolan Principles of Public Life);
3. Council to share and agree brief and masterplan with local representative groups before publication of its recommendations;
4. All to work with the architect(s) to achieve a design which has popular consent as well as meets the agreed objectives (community-focused, cultural and economic). This to include both landscaping as well as build designs and draw upon proven ability and experience in the 'urban realm' and the 'built environment';
5. Council to establish a formal consultative group (a 'riverside management' committee) in agreement with and including representatives of local groups, to oversee development of actual designs, their approval and implementation;
6. Council and residents to consider together how external sources might be drawn on to finance the development – e.g. Heritage Lottery funding.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES (AND CREATION OF A PLAN)

The RAG Community brief of Summer 2016 remains both comprehensive and relevant guidance as to how the present options under consideration may be developed into concrete design proposals. Specifically at this stage, the following core objectives are important:

1. **Mix of uses: establish creative spaces** for:
 - Businesses
 - Arts/cultural interests – visual, musical (including the Eel Pie Island museum), historic, and scientific, in accordance with the uniqueness of the riverside at Twickenham;
2. **Community space:** avoiding 'over-building' of the site, create purposeful space for local residents (landscaped and paved), which links the town centre, the river and riverfront, the historic village, and the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Champions Wharf and York House gardens, in a way which adds dynamically to the experience of both residents and visitors;
3. **Location of uses:** focus the commercial/'economic return' elements of the site primarily at the King Street end of the site plan with the community and cultural elements located in the areas closer to the river itself;
4. **Health and well-being:** stimulate the health and well-being of people wishing to spend time in this area or simply passing through it. This should include a specific focus on the river and its related activities or aspects; e.g. the promotion of active river leisure usage will help create a real draw alongside other leisure spaces;
5. **Access, circulation and parking:** ensure that access and circulation are easy and balanced, both for visitors/pedestrians, and safeguard the parking required to support the residents on Eel Pie Island and in the immediate neighbourhood;
6. **Connectivity with town centre:** achieve an active and relevant connection between the junction of King Street and Water Lane and the riverfront itself;
7. **Development model:** ensure that the Council/community retains continuing ownership and control of the entire site – i.e. through leasing (rather than selling) the land and buildings.

The following is **not** regarded as part of the 'purpose' of the site design:

- More shops, particularly away from King Street. This matter is explicitly referred to by the Inspector in the Twickenham Area Action Plan. There is no justification for more outlets, given the numbers of vacant shops today. (The Twickenham town centre report written in 2009 and updated in 2014 provides an out-of-date picture).